

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 1, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 23

Introduced by Senator Cannella

March 13, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23—Relative to the Soledad Correctional Officers Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 23, as amended, Cannella. Soledad *State Prison* Correctional Officers Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 101 in the County of Monterey as the Soledad *State Prison* Correctional Officers Memorial Highway to honor John V. Mills, William C. Shull, Robert J. McCarthy, and Kenneth E. Conant with their names included in the designation of the highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Between January 1970 and May 1971, four
2 correctional officers were attacked and killed in the line of duty
3 at the ~~Salinas Valley State Prison~~ *California Department of*
4 *Corrections and Rehabilitation Correctional Training Facility*,
5 formerly known as the Soledad State Prison, in a string of violent
6 inmate uprisings; and
7 WHEREAS, John V. Mills, born on July 19, 1944, in Riverside,
8 California, grew up in Fresno, attended Long Beach State College,

1 served two years in the Army, and had just been assigned to the
2 medium security Y-Wing in relief of another ~~guard~~ *officer* who
3 was on vacation; and

4 WHEREAS, On ~~July 19~~ *January 16*, 1970, Officer Mills was
5 locked in the cell block with 95 inmates, and was attacked and
6 beaten to death at approximately 6:30 p.m. by ~~three~~ inmates in
7 retaliation for the shooting deaths of three other inmates at the
8 prison; and

9 WHEREAS, Officer Mills was a 14-month veteran correctional
10 officer of the prison and resident of Monterey, who left a widow,
11 Bernadette, and a son, Michael Lee; and

12 WHEREAS, William C. Shull, born on June 13, 1930, in
13 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, attended Gettysburg High School, served
14 22 years in the Army, retiring with the rank of Master Sergeant,
15 and was awarded the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, On July 23, 1970, Officer Shull was assigned to
18 the recreational building 1-Yard exercise area in relief of another
19 ~~guard~~ *officer* who was unable to work that day, and was found
20 lifeless at 9:30 a.m. by an inmate, having been beaten and stabbed
21 to death by inmates in retaliation for the shooting deaths of three
22 other inmates at the prison; and

23 WHEREAS, Officer Shull was a one-year veteran correctional
24 officer of the prison and resident of Seaside, who left a widow,
25 Kazuko, and four girls, Gracie, Sarah, Betty, and Rose; and

26 WHEREAS, Robert J. McCarthy, born on August 8, 1927, in
27 Oklahoma, served 21 years in the Army, retiring with the rank of
28 Sergeant; and

29 WHEREAS, On March 4, 1971, Officer McCarthy was
30 conducting a count of the inmates in X-Wing, at 11:15 p.m., when
31 an inmate, claiming he needed to mail a letter, lured Officer
32 McCarthy to his cell door and stabbed him; and

33 WHEREAS, Valiant efforts by hospital staff and an inmate in
34 the infirmary stabilized Officer McCarthy's condition, but he died
35 after he was transferred to the military hospital at Fort Ord; and

36 WHEREAS, Officer McCarthy was a veteran correctional officer
37 of the prison since 1966 and a resident of the City of Marina, who
38 left a widow, Emily, and two children, Leon and Sylvia; and

1 WHEREAS, Kenneth E. Conant, born on December 6, 1921,
2 in Denver, Colorado, attended the University of Denver and the
3 University of Southern California; and

4 WHEREAS, On May 19, 1971, Mr. Conant, a correctional
5 employee, was sitting at his desk preparing to conduct a
6 disciplinary committee hearing with ~~several inmates and two prison~~
7 ~~employees~~ *officials* when they were attacked by two inmates *who*
8 *entered the office* with handmade knives, and Mr. Conant was
9 fatally stabbed while the ~~other~~ prison officials received minor
10 injuries; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Conant was a 20-year veteran of corrections
12 work and a resident of Salinas, who left a widow, Helen, and a
13 son, Donald; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
16 portion of State Highway Route 101 between Exit 303 and Exit
17 310 in the County of Monterey as the Soledad *State* Prison
18 Correctional Officers Memorial Highway to honor John V. Mills,
19 William C. Shull, Robert J. McCarthy, and Kenneth E. Conant,
20 whose names shall be included in the special designation of the
21 highway; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
23 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
24 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
25 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
26 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
27 further

28 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
29 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
30 author for appropriate distribution.